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**LAND AT 51 COATES ROAD, EASTREA, WHITTLESEY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

CHER: ECB 5200

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: 529600 297350	Report No: 5434
District: Fenland	Site Code: ECB 5200
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7303
	Date: 19 September 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at 51 Coates Road, Eastrea, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation at 51 Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (NGR 529600 297350; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a detached dwelling (Plot 2) (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. Plot 2 F/YR17/0390/VOC, varied from F/YR16/0854/F), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>An evaluation of the site and a wider area was undertaken in 2014 (CAU 2014) (CHER ECB 4175). Twelve trenches were excavated across the site, revealing some five dated features with material of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, believed to show continuation of a site to the south of Coates Road. The features included pits, a ditch and two ovens or kilns, and the possible base of an Sunken Featured Building. The trenches in the vicinity of proposed Plot 2 revealed four pits.</i></p> <p><i>The investigation revealed Post Holes F1003 and F1005, Pits F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Ditch F1018. Post Hole F1003 contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery. The other half of Pit 8 Trench 6 of the former evaluation (Timberlake 2014; CHER ECB 4175) was excavated, and additional late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Layers 21 and 24. Some modern intrusions were evident within the stripped area of excavation.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	P6525	Site code	ECB 5200
Type of project	<i>Archaeological investigation</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Vacant garden land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits, Post Holes</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>Whittlesey</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	<i>c.150m²</i>		
NGR	<i>529600 297350</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.5.50m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr M Beckett</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at 51 Coates Road, Eastrea, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Investigation</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.,</i>		
Report no.	<i>5434</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2017</i>		

**LAND AT 51 COATES ROAD, EASTREA, WHITTLESEY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation at 51 Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (NGR 529600 297350; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a detached dwelling (Plot 2) (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. Plot 2 F/YR17/0390/VOC, varied from F/YR16/0854/F), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

An evaluation of the site and a wider area was undertaken in 2014 (CAU 2014) (CHER ECB 4175). Twelve trenches were excavated across the site, revealing some five dated features with material of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, believed to show continuation of a site to the south of Coates Road. The features included pits, a ditch and two ovens or kilns, and the possible base of a Sunken Featured Building. The trenches in the vicinity of proposed Plot 2 revealed four pits.

The investigation revealed Post Holes F1003 and F1005, Pits F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Ditch F1018. Post Hole F1003 contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery. The other half of Pit 8 Trench 6 of the former evaluation (Timberlake 2014; CHER ECB 4175) was excavated, and additional late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Layers 21 and 24. Some modern intrusions were evident within the stripped area of excavation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation at 51 Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (NGR 529600 297350; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a detached dwelling (Plot 2) (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. Plot 2 F/YR17/0390/VOC, varied from F/YR16/0854/F), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The investigation followed a previous trial trench evaluation (Timberlake 2014; CHER 4175) of the site carried out as the initial requirement of the condition. Following the trial trench evaluation CCC HET required the site to be subject to further open area excavation prior to the development commencing.

1.3 The investigation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Kasia Gdaniec; dated 3rd August 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 15th August 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The primary objectives of the project were to record the location, extent, date and character of any archaeological remains present within the surviving areas of the site, and to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record. Also to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

1.5 The academic aims of the project were:

- To characterize the nature of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity, if present, as associated with domestic, industrial or funerary activity; and place it within the context of contemporary activity on the fen-edge;
- To examine the evidence from the excavated ceramic assemblage to refine the ceramic chronology, in particular if a prehistoric oven or kiln is found on the site again;
- To examine the evidence if an oven or kiln is found on this part of the site; to understand its technology; to obtain relevant samples of linings, clay fabrics, fuel etc; and assess whether this evidence can be radiocarbon dated to support/clarify the ceramic evidence; and
- Identify any possible Saxon SFBs, related rubbish pits or enclosure ditches that may represent a continuation of the Saxon settlement to the north.

1.6 Using the spectrum of environmental techniques appropriate for this aspect of investigation, an attempt was made to model the landscape and its transformation brought about by the settlement's inhabitants and due to natural events.

Planning Policy Context

1.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.8 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located to the north of Coates Road in Eastrea, in the rear garden plot of the existing dwelling of No 51.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.5.5m AOD on a solid geology of Oxford Clay, locally capped by gravels. The village of Eastrea occupies an area of higher ground above the former low-lying fen basin.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER), where extensive evidence of multi-period landscape activity has been recorded. This includes settlement evidence of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon date, with ring ditches, field systems, trackways and linear features (such as CHER MCB19585, 11049 & 10593). Occupation debris from the Roman period and settlement evidence is recorded on the periphery of the village (CHER 10164 & 10593), whilst Iron Age ovens are recorded directly to the west of the site (CHER MCB23117). Undated pits, ditches and postholes are also nearby (CHER MCB21482 & MCB16679). A site to the immediate north of the development plot is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (CHER DCB28; NHLE 1006853). This is a Saxon settlement with *grubenhauser* buildings (CHER 02921 & 02834a) and a ring ditch (CHER 02834).

4.2 An evaluation of the site and a wider area was undertaken in 2014 (Timberlake 2014; CHER ECB 4175). In summary:

Twelve trenches were excavated across the site, revealing some five dated features with material of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, believed to show continuation of a site to the south of Coates Road. The features included pits, a ditch and two ovens or kilns, and the possible base of a SFB.

4.3 The trenches in the vicinity of proposed Plot 2 revealed some four pits (Trenches 6, 7 and 11, Fig. 3). Three pits were recorded in Trench 6: F8, F9 and F10. The latter was modern. Pit F8 contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, and Pit F9 was judged to be broadly contemporary with Pit F8. No features were recorded in Trench 7 and Trench 11 partially exposed a shallow clay-lined oven or kiln.

4.4 The site thus had a potential for further remains of prehistoric date and to provide further evidence of use of this local multi-period landscape.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The brief required the excavation of a defined area which encompassed the new house plot, access and services (Fig. 3). Careful machine-stripping of these areas was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision of an archaeologist.

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.3 A metal detector survey was undertaken following the planning, the strategy for excavation will be agreed with the client and CCC HET.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

Sample Section 1 Figs. 3 - 4

0.00 = 4.78m AOD		
0.00 - 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil: Firm, grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub angular and sub-rounded flint
0.28 - 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil: Compact, mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular flint
0.54m+	L1002	Natural deposits: Firm to compact, pale – mid brown clayey silt.

Sample Section 2 Figs. 3 - 4

0.00 = 4.76m AOD		
0.00 - 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil: As above
0.36 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil: As above
0.55m+	L1002	Natural deposits: As above

Description: Post Holes F1003 and F1005, Pits F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Ditch F1018 were excavated. Post Hole F1003 contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery. Some modern intrusions were evident within the stripped area of excavation.

The other half of Pit 8 Trench 6 of the former evaluation (Timberlake 2014; CHER ECB 4175) was excavated, and additional late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Layers 21 and 24.

Ditch F1018 was linear in plan (? X 4.09 x 0.80m+). It had moderately sloping sides and its base was not revealed. L1020, the upper fill, was a dark yellow brown sand and flint. Below L1020, L1021 was a mid yellow sand with occasional medium sub angular – sub rounded flint. The upper fill, L1020, contained animal bone (260g).

Two post holes were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Finds
F1003	L1004	Circular, near vertical sites sides, shallow concave base (0.34 x 0.14m).	Firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular and sub rounded flint	Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age Pottery (4; 11g)
F1005	L1006	Circular. Steep sides, concave base (0.38 x 0.18m)	Firm, pale grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular and sub rounded flint	-

Four pits were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Finds
F1007	L1008	Circular, steep sides, concave base (0.42 x 0.11m).	Firm, dark brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular and sub rounded flint	-
F1009	L1010	Square. Vertical sides, base unseen Not fully excavated	Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular flint	Modern
F1011	L1014 (Upper)	Irregular. Moderately sloping sides, shallow concave base (1.22 x 0.95 x 0.15m)	Firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt with sparse	-
-	L1013	-	Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular flint	-
-	L1012 (Base)	-	Firm, mid yellow grey brown sandy silt	-
F1015	L1016	Circular, moderately sloping sides, flattish base (0.95 x 0.18m)	Firm, pale yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular and sub rounded flint	-

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 An evaluation of the site and a wider area was undertaken in 2014 (Timberlake, 2014; ECB 4175). Twelve trenches were excavated across the site, revealing some five dated features with material of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, believed to show continuation of a site to the south of Coates Road. The features included pits, a ditch and two ovens or kilns, and the possible base of a SFB. The trenches in the vicinity of proposed Plot 2 revealed some four pits.

8.2 The excavation revealed Post Holes F1003 and F1005, Pits F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Ditch F1018. These features were loosely clustered in the northern part of the excavated area, in or close to Trench 6 of the former evaluation, and also aligning with the distribution of features in evaluation Trenches 1 - 3 and 5, which were located beyond the western extent of the current excavation. This level of preservation may contrast with that in the central and southern areas of excavation where modern development has had a higher impact, and despite careful excavation an 'oven' previously recorded in Trench 11 was not located. The evaluation did note it was seriously affected by drying out, rooting and garden cultivation.

8.3 The most significant of the archaeological remains from the excavation was the second half of Pit 8, recorded in Trench 6 of the former evaluation (Timberlake 2014; CHER ECB 4175), which contained additional late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery in Layers 21 and 24. The pottery included cross-joining fragments from three coarse vessels, probably jars. Post Hole F1003 also contained a low quantity of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery. Within the development of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age 'post-Deverel-Rimbury' (PDR) pottery, the vessel types appear to date to the 'earliest' or 'early' Iron Age, potentially spanning c.800-350BC and elucidating the chronology of the limited diagnostic material recovered during the evaluation.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridge County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Michael Beckett for funding the works and for all his assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge Mr Ben Trundley of Trundley Properties.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

ECB5200, P7303, Land at 51 Coates Road, Eastrea, Whittlesey, Cambs

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
F1003	L1004			Fill of Post Hole	Late Bronze Age- Early Iron Age	4	11					
F1018	L1020			Fill of Ditch					260			
Feature 8	L21		CAU Trench 6	Fill of Pit	Late Bronze Age- Early Iron Age	1	8					
Feature 8	L24		CAU Trench 6	Fill of Pit	Late Bronze Age- Early Iron Age	19	480					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The assemblage contained a total of 24 sherds (499g) of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery in a slightly to moderately abraded condition, predominantly contained in a single pit: F8 (Table 1). The pottery conforms to the post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramic tradition that spans the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age in the region, and the fabric and form types present may tentatively be identified with PDR groups in the region dated to the 8th-5th centuries BC, possibly as late as the 3rd century BC.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
?Pit F8	20	488
L1004	4	11
<i>Total</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>489</i>

Table 1: Quantification of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery by sherd count and weight (in grams) in feature groups

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE (including minimum number of vessels) with fabrics examined at x20 magnification. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in separate fields and free-text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995). To reduce the repetition of references to general and particular form types, abbreviations (*italicised*) have been utilised for Barrett's (1980) classification of PDR vessel *Class*, and for the type-site at *West Harling* (Clark & Fell 1953). All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Pottery

The LBA/EIA pottery occurred in three hand-made, bonfire-fired fabrics that all represent varying proportions of grog and shell temper, with all three variants present in Pit F8, each representing a single vessel. This seeming high proportion of grog alongside shell temper is not typical in fenland assemblages, but was paralleled at Rhee Lakeside South and The Holme at Colne Fen (Brudenell 2013, 139). The fabrics can be described as:

- G1 Grog-tempered ware. Orange-brown surfaces over a mid grey core. Inclusions comprise common grog (0.5-2mm) and occasional shell/voids (<2.5mm).
- GS1 Grog-and-shell-tempered ware. Pale brown-grey surfaces over a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise sparse grog and shell (both 0.5-1.5mm, with some grog containing shell).
- SG1 Shell-and-grog-tempered ware. Orange external surface; mid grey-brown core and interior. Inclusions comprise common shell (0.25-2.5mm) and sparse grog (c.1mm).

Fabric	Pit F8		Other Features		<i>Total</i>	
	SC	W	SC	W	SC	W
G1	11	172	4	11	15	183
GS1	4	113	-	-	4	113
SG1	5	203	-	-	5	203
<i>Total</i>	20	488	4	11	24	499

Table 2: Quantification of fabric types in Pit F8 and other features by sherd count (SC) and weight (W, in grams)

The pottery group in Pit F8 is comprised of single vessels in each of fabrics G1, GS1 and SG1; with each vessel represented by multiple cross-joining sherds, however only one includes the rim. The vessel in fabric G1 comprises a coarseware jar (*Class I/West Harling IV*) with a slightly flaring rim and rounded-shoulder; comparable to jars at Colne Fen South (Brudenell 2013, 141: fig.4.25.2), Fengate (Hawkes 1943, 209: Fig.7.R10) and Fordham Road, Soham (Peachey 2015: fig.96.1), as well as those emerging from the exceptionally-preserved house groups recently excavated at Must Farm, Whittlesey. This vessel had a rim diameter of 16cm and no evidence of surface treatment or wear; while the small G1 body sherds in L1004 could conceivably be from the same or a closely comparable vessel but did not cross-join. The body and neck sherds from the GS1 vessel suggest it was a similar but slightly larger vessel, either a jar or bowl to the G1 jar; while the SG1 vessel is represented by lower body and base sherds and was probably also a coarseware jar or bowl.

The classification of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age form types is framed by the development of chronologies for PDR pottery in eastern England. This framework is underpinned by the broad definition of PDR ceramic tradition spanning the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age by Barrett (1980), in parallel with the early Iron Age regional style zones defined by Cunliffe (1968; 2005), specifically the West Harling-Fengate group and the Ivinghoe-Sandy group (Cunliffe 2005, 94-7, figs. A:5 & A:7). Defining and refining a ceramic-based chronology within the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age has proved problematic, in part because inter- and intra-site comparisons often appeared to show inconsistent patterns; and because in regions such as the fens and fen-edge, substantial diagnostic assemblages remained relatively uncommon therefore comprehensive data with which to determine a satisfactory resolution remained absent. However the compilation of new data (and associated radio-carbon dates) has allowed greater rigour and understanding to be applied to PDR chronologies in eastern England (Brudenell 2008a; Knight 2002), in particular northern East Anglia (Brudenell 2011), while recent excavations in the southern half of the fens/fen-edge have provided similar assemblages from sites such as Colne Fen (Brudenell 2013, 213). Therefore, it has proved possible to move beyond Barrett's, still applicable vessel classes, to recognise form and decoration types characteristic of early plain ware, early decorated ware and late decorated ware (i.e. Brudenell 2011, 13-22) associated with chronological phases within the PDR ceramic tradition.

The associated vessels in Pit F8 form a group of limited extent by context, but accepting this, parallels can still be made with chronological trends in the

evolution of PDR vessels. The prevalence of jars with slightly flared rims and high round-shouldered profiles appear most consistent with PDR form types in both 'early' and 'late' decorated PDR that develop in the earliest Iron Age (c.800-600BC) and early Iron Age (c.600-350BC) (Brudenell 2008a, 188-90; Brudenell 2011, 17-20), with comparable vessels at Fordham Road, Soham dated to c.800-500BC (Peachey 2015, 79-80). This relatively long currency (to 350BC or beyond) transgresses traditional divides (Brudenell 2008a, 191; Knight 2002, 127) but is supported by the radiocarbon dating of a group at Colne Fen South that could potentially continue into the 3rd century BC and the beginning of the middle Iron Age (Brudenell 2013, 145). On a broader scale it must be stated that these vessel types are distinct from the bi-partite vessels with a lower girth/shoulder recorded in the late Bronze Age assemblage from Addenbrooke's, Cambridge (Brudenell 2008b, 36), and the more rounded profiles of the earliest middle Iron Age jars from Haddenham V (Hill & Braddock 2006).

Based on a single pit as the principal depositional context, it is unclear if the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery was associated with settlement activity, although it appears pertinent that the multiple vessels represent a single act of (rubbish) disposal of probably domestic vessels that do not exhibit any evidence of wear, including burning or residues. This appears to be consistent with five features dated to late Bronze Age to early Iron Age previously recorded in a wider area that included the site (CAU 2014), which were interpreted as a continuation of activity to the south of the road. Other evidence on land at Coates Road has included the presence of a late Bronze Age water hole or well, which contained a log ladder and pottery (grog and shell-tempered vessels) that were radiocarbon dated to 980-800BC (Taylor 2011, 4), potentially overlapping with the emergence of the pottery in the pit group that forms the bulk of this assemblage.

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The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

A small quantity of bone was recovered from the excavation. All of the bone derived from a single undated context, L1020 (Ditch F1019). The preservation was rated as OK on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. The bone was slightly abraded and one element was somewhat pitted on the surface. Several fresh breakages were evident. Three bone elements were present two of which belonged to cattle, a metacarpal and a tibia. The third element was a long bone fragment which could only be identified a medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. No evidence of butchery or pathology was observed on any on the bones. No ageable elements were present.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the evaluation on land at Coates Road, Eastrea, a bulk soil sample was taken and processed from LBA/EIA Post Hole fill L1004 (F1003). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

The sample was processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fraction was washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fraction was sieved to 1mm. The dried light fraction was scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical remains were identified

and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fraction are presented in Table 3. Only a single indeterminate cereal grain was identified within the deposit. Such a low density of material indicates that the sampled feature was not receiving significant concentrations of carbonised debris from nearby domestic or agricultural activity. However, the results of a single feature cannot be considered representative of any site-wide patterns.

References

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd edn), Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)		% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants			Other remains	
						Volume processed (litres)	Volume taken (litres)		Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
ECB520 0	1	100 4	100 3	Fill of Posthole	LBA/EI A	10	10	100 %	X	-	NFI (X)	-	-	-	-	-	-	X X	-	X	-	-	-

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Coates Road, Eastrea. Abbreviations: NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F1003 looking south



2
F1005 looking south



3
F1009 looking south-west



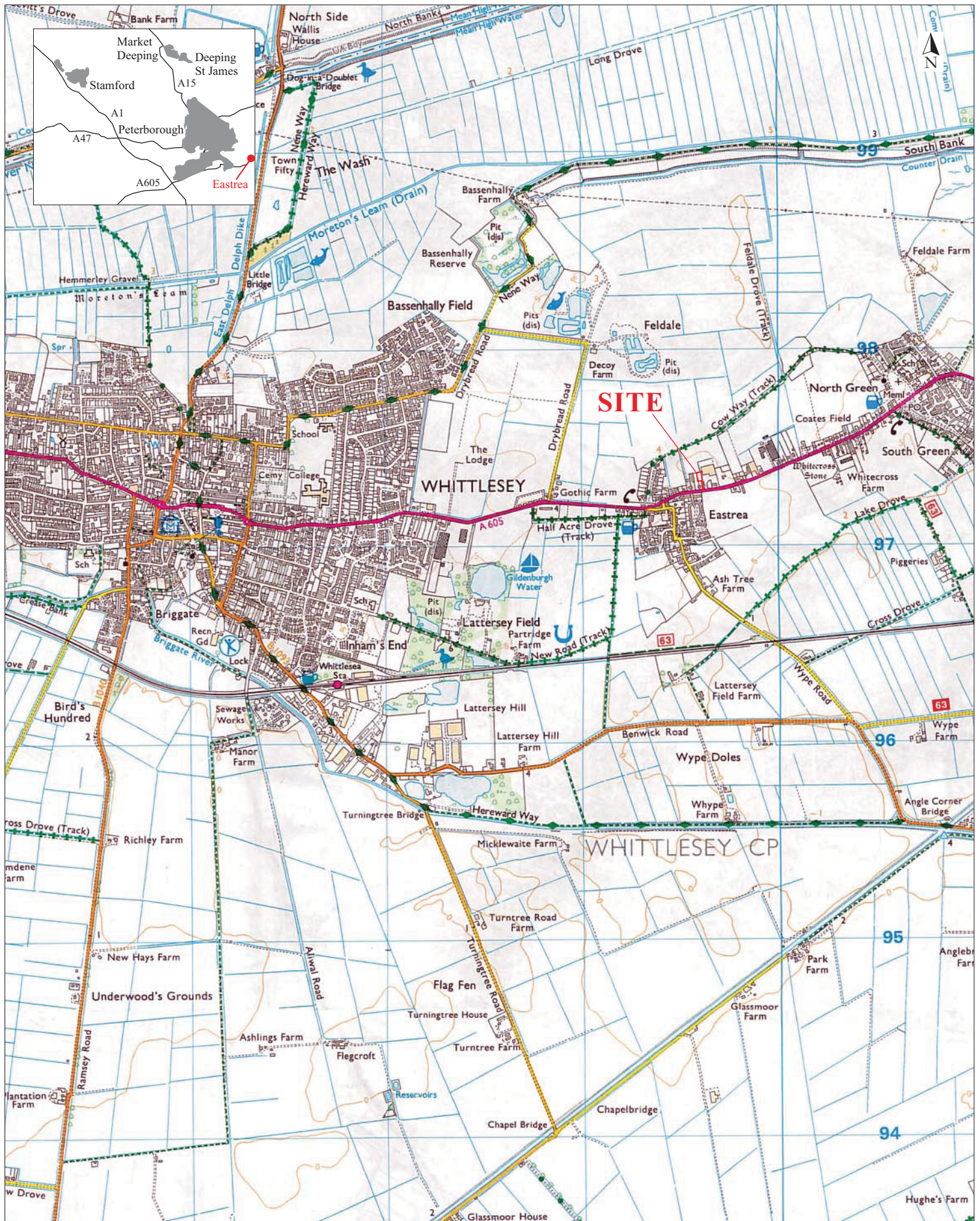
4
F1015 looking east



5
F1019 looking west



6
General view of site looking south-east



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (P7303)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:600 at A4
Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (P7303)



CAU 2014 trenches

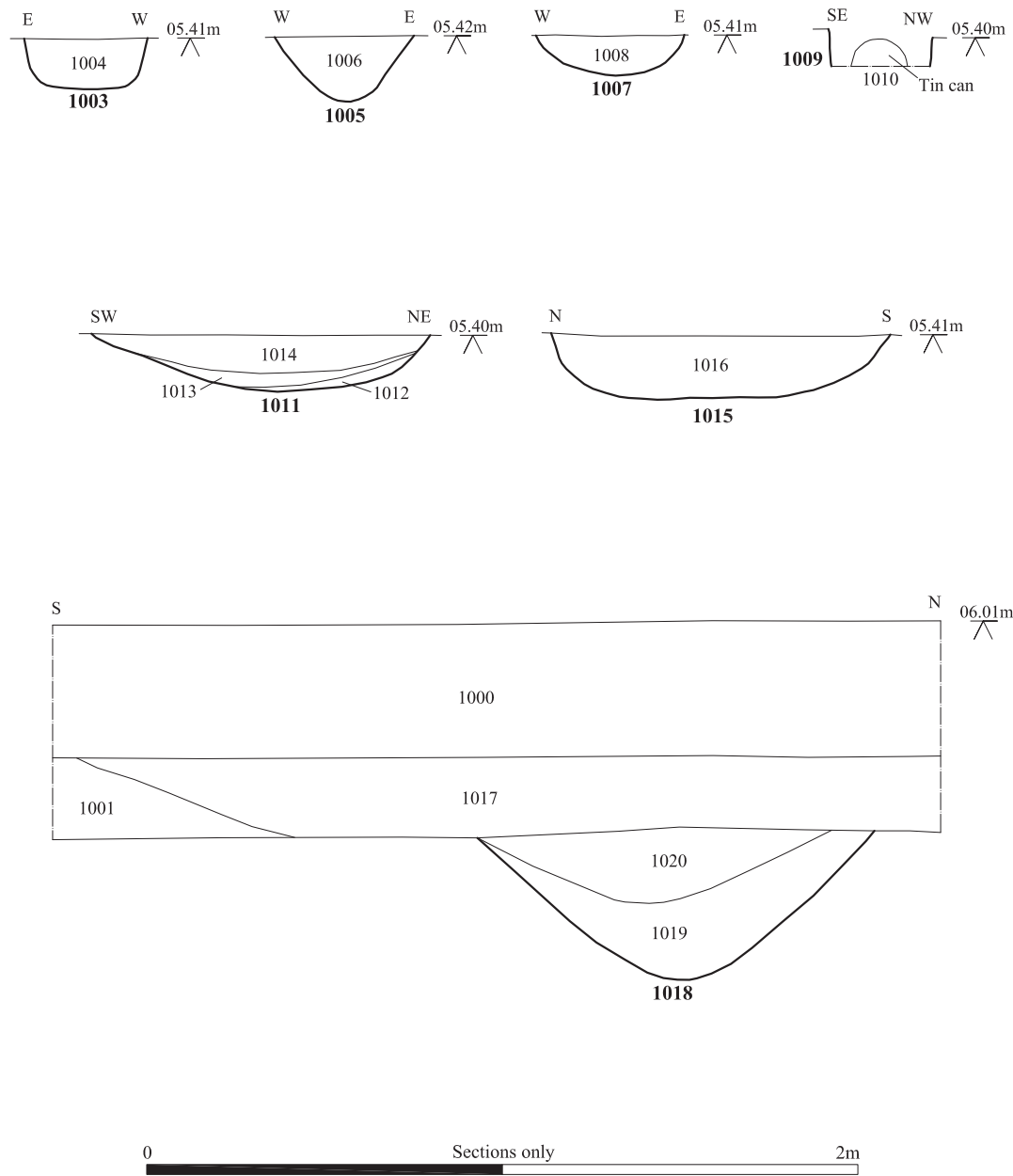
0 15m

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Fig. 3 Excavation plan

Scale 1:300 at A4

Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (P7303)



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Fig. 4 Sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (P7303)



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Fig. 5 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
Coates Road, Eastrea, Cambridgeshire (P7303)